



The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
14 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Soviet Union

Ambassador Thompson, now back in Moscow a month, has cabled his first impressions of the changes that have taken place in the past four years.

--The leadership in the Kremlin really does operate collectively, though Brezhnev is clearly the number one man. One observer told the ambassador that in Khrushchev's day it was necessary only to convince one man in order to carry out a given proposal. Now, all members of the politburo must be convinced, since almost any one of them could block it.

--This collectivity makes for indecision and the lack of bold initiatives.

--The direction and management of the economy have improved and the leaders have reason to be proud of their "businesslike" approach.

--The people are living better now, but conditions have improved slowly.

2. Communist China

Signs continue to mount that the "cultural revolution" is at least temporarily being channeled toward a more moderate course.

It is too early to speak with confidence, but for the first time in months there is a smell of compromise in the wind. It could mean that the relatively moderate Chou En-lai is now speaking with a more authoritative voice.

3. Communist China

50X1

4. Dominican Republic

Leaders of the Revolutionary Social Christian Party, who were among the most vocal allies of the extremists during the 1965 revolution, are now shifting to a moderate position of "constructive opposition" to the Balaguer government. They clearly hope to pick up strength from disillusioned members of Juan Bosch's party, which continues to be afflicted by internal discord and irresponsible leadership.

Balaguer has responded positively to the Social Christians' cautious overtures. He could benefit considerably from this rare infusion of political responsibility into Dominican politics.

5. Argentina

Long-smoldering hostility between the military government and organized labor may soon erupt into bloodshed. Union leaders expect Communists in the labor movement will try to direct the violence against the inter-American meetings now under way in Buenos Aires.

President Ongania is under strong pressure from his military colleagues to crack down hard, but may try to hold off a showdown until the meetings are over.

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